

## POOR STUPID SLAVES.

HOW THE PEASANTS OF AUSTRIAN POLAND LIVE.

Human Beings Who Are Not Unlike Animals—What They Wear and How They Are Employed—Wherein They Differ From the Ruthenians.

My original purpose in visiting Austrian Poland was to inspect, at the invitation of a friend, the new petroleum fields of north-eastern Austria, and incidentally to study the Galician lowly.

On first reaching Cracow a hasty trip by rail to Kolomea, in the southeastern corner of Galicia, a half-day's walk from the frontier of barbaric Bessarabia, demonstrated that there was nothing of very great interest to write of these industrial developments.

An oil belt 300 miles in length and about 25 miles wide extends southeast from near Sanok, in Galicia, along the Carpathian range of mountains. It then passes between Bukovina and Hungary, and thence breaks away into the Roumanian oil fields in detached spurs of the Carpathians. It is perhaps 1,000 miles in length, and altogether forms what is known in the geography of petroleum as the "Galician deposits," and territory of the "Austro-Roumanian refineries."

Until 1881 the operations were of the most primitive character, consisting almost exclusively of "hand digging" and the "free fall" systems of sinking wells. At the date named the Canadian system of "pole tool drilling," was introduced, and rapid development, backed by English capital and operated by Galician Polish companies, resulted. All the steam power machinery is imported from England. Engineers and superintendents have been brought from the Canadian oil fields, and the tools formerly supplied from Hanover, are now made in Galicia.

The flow of oil is not to be compared with that of the average Pennsylvania districts. It becomes most insignificant when the great Russian wells of Baku are taken into account, yet it is a fairly profitable source of supply; has given employment to thousands of Polish and Ruthenian peasants, whose wages are ninety kreutzers, or about thirty-six cents per day, with a daily allowance of two sticks of cordwood for fuel; and I find the entire annual production of the Galician petroleum fields equals two-thirds of the total consumption by all Austria.

In so far as these peasant employees, who were too recently agriculturists, woodsmen and mountaineers to have lost any of their hereditary customs and characteristics, gave opportunity of study of the Galician peasantry, the large groupings of such lowly had interest. But my researches among the peasant class were chiefly carried on upon the large estates and in the purely peasant villages.

The acceptance of three invitations as guest at the homes of two noblemen and one rich gentleman farmer furnished opportunity to know slightly the aristocratic country landlords and to really see their hind or laborers and house servants as they are. The latter differ in no important respect from the laboring peasantry of the villages, save that to them they seem even more suddenly stupid and servile. At this time of the year the outdoor laborer still retains his winter clothing. He is a curious looking fellow. His hair is cut either straight across his forehead, or to a spear-like point upon it, and grows like a lion's mane about his shoulders and neck.

His head covering is a mangy fur hood, often of squirrel skin with tail dangling loosely upon his shoulders, or of sheep or goat skin with the fleece side next his head. A sort of greatcoat or robe hangs loosely from his shoulders to below his knees. This is of the skin of some animal, with the fur or hair next the body. The reversed exposed side is covered with ancient layers of grease for protection against the snow and rain. If he possesses undergarments of any sort, they are shreds of rags stuffed with chaff and straw.

He usually wears stockings of the heaviest and coarsest materials, and high legged, pointed shoes of huge proportions. For not only are precious hose protected by ropes of straw wound round above the knee to the ankle, but enough chaff and wisps of straw participate in occupancy of his cavernous shoes to provide sufficient warmth. Aside from this unique garb, his beard stands out from his face a massy, wiry *cheveu-de-frise*, in which enough straw and chaff have lodged to provide an adequate "comforter" for his face and neck.

From a dozen to a score of these peasant animals seem to be attached to every large estate. If they have quarters—except those who are married, who are provided with low, thatched wooden huts, squallid and filthy beyond description—I was not able to find them. They are "messed" like hogs from the great house kitchen in corners of the stables, and lie down at night among the other animals, with their straw ropes and hide coats for bedding, wherever they are able to find most congenial and comfortable stabling.

Serfdom is not supposed to exist in this land, but I have a well-founded suspicion that something very like it is in vogue. The wages of such laborers do not exceed an average of thirty kreutzers per day, perhaps 12 cents, although they are glad enough to get this. Each estate is provided with a steward or overseer, who, like the Irish agent, adjusts matters so that human effort is not permitted to produce more than this kind of human life is supposed to require. He has a storehouse filled with the rude requirements of these estate laborers—coats, shoes, hose, belts, something that is called tobacco and snuff, *caviare* and vile brandy. These are issued, after the manner of our own exquisitely devilish "truck" system with miners, with such discretion that the estate laborer is in life-long debt, and is subject to the prison and lash if he attempts to escape his master and his obligation.

There are no schools or colleges for the better class of girls, and at nearly all these Polish aristocratic homes I found a *bonne*, an English governess, or both, and a French

tutor. They receive excellent salaries, live on something like terms of equality with their employers, are usually broken-down gentlemen or gentlewomen with "literary turn" like president Mr. Wegg, and are the most glad and grateful people on earth when chance brings a traveller like myself from the outer world of glowing activities among them.

I do not know whether to pity them or the manual servants of the household most. They live in a refined sort of Siberia in which there is scarcely a ray of lightness or opportunity for enjoyment, with the advantage rather on the side of the serfs beneath them; for the latter know only the dull, plodding, beastly darkness into which they have been born. I found one woman here, a governess, whom I know to have been in Berlin in 1882; while a tutor in another establishment is an Oxford linguist, who has published a creditable book in London within five years last past. Both of them begged me in God's name not to reveal their present whereabouts and condition.

Outside of the great estates, the Galician peasantry in general are of two distinct races—the Ruthenians, of Russian descent, and the Poles. Their conditions are equal, but they have many distinct characteristics. Neither actually possesses a foot of soil. Most hold their patches of ground, or huts, when they are simply cotters and laborers, at the will of the lord; and rent is seldom collected in money, for of money they have little or none. Field products are sometimes taken in lieu of money, but rents are usually, almost universally, collected in labor, amounting to from 80 to 100 working days in each year to each man.

The Ruthenian is the tidier, thrifter, more manful man of the two. His dress is of coarse, hempen stuff, with his shirt hanging outside his trousers, with occasionally a sacklike coat made of the coarse, long hair of the mountain sheep. His feet are covered with moccasins pointed at the toes and laced from the toe to the ankle. He wears no stockings, but loosely winds his legs with cord from his ankles half way to the knees, where it binds his baggy trousers closely. In the summer he wears a straw hat, and in the winter a Lapland hood. He is a coarse, clean man, never fat, of splendid muscular development; wiry, active, alert, and by all odds the best workman or laborer in Galicia.

The Ruthenian woman has some odd ideas of dress. The material is usually of coarse linen. Her gown, which is in reality her chemise, is open from neck to knees and is belted in loose folds about the waist. Another curious and distinguishing article of dress is her wadded apron. She is never without this, but it is worn behind, never in front. She has no stockings or undergarments, but her feet are shod like her husband's—with pointed and laced moccasins. Her head, in winter and summer, is always bound in a gaudy handkerchief, but she possesses no other article of clothing whatever, except a sheepskin coat for winter use. What she lacks next her skin she makes up in ornamentation. I have counted more than a score of brass rings on the fingers of her two hands. Her earrings of hollow brass would hold enough oil to light the family fire for an evening; and her necklace of glass or imitation coral beads, coiled a half dozen times about her by no means charming neck, is as many yards in length.

The appearance and regimen of the Polish peasantry, whether laborers about the oil fields, woodsmen or agriculturists, are very different. The men are of slower action, dark, ungainly, and wear muscled, of great size and fierceness of appearance. The women are bony, hard featured, save among the very youthful maidens, with black, beady and restless eyes. Neither men nor women are pleasant in appearance or temper.

They have no distinctive dress, unless rage may become by their undergarments distinctive. They are the most uncouth and forbidding lowly folk in their homes or at labor I ever met. But none are so poor as to not possess neat suits for Sundays, feast days and market time diversion. On these occasions their colorful appearance in cottons of the most striking colors, like Ruthenian women, they are loaded down with Brumagm jewelry, and a green, yellow, or red kerchief turban on their heads, while the men invariably appear in black. Other five to ten families live under one roof, but usually the *domo*, or house which the Ruthenian calls his *buda*, is a tiny bit of one room. All the furniture in this—cots, stools, tables and chests—are handmade and almost always made by the peasant himself. There is invariably one box on which he has lavished his most loving art. It contains his keepsakes and treasures and all his kreutzers and gulden. He never relinquishes the key to this, and not even his wife knows how little or great is the store it contains.

The houses of both Ruthenian and Polish peasants are but one story high, with one room open to the roof. They are made of slabs and bits of refuse timber from the mountain mills. These bits are rudely mortised together. When the inner structure is completed, pegs are driven into the sides. Clay mortar is then thrown upon pegs and pounded until it is solid. The surfaces are then wet and worked by hand with light mallets until perfectly smooth and dry, when the huts are whitewashed and thatched. Little groups of these charmingly diversified the often dreary Galician landscape.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

## Prayer By Machine.

One of the sights of India is Bhutia Butee, or village, which contains a Buddhist temple, and around it are clustered the dirty huts of filthy, but happy, people. The tall flagstaffs around the barn-like house float long, cotton streamers with printed prayers. The red-capped Lamas will turn the prayer wheels and show the images or the drum made of two Lama skulls and trumpet of a thigh bone. There are many monasteries of this sort on the tops of the mountains on the road to Tibet, all inaccessible and lonely, often containing manuscript books written in Sanskrit or Pali, of great interest and value. Every Bhutian or Thibetan has a small silver or copper box, containing a printed prayer; this is attached to a stick and says his devotions for him. All he has to do is to turn the wheel from left to right and repeat "Om Mani Padmi Om." "Hail to Thee of the Lotus and the Jewel." Should he, however, have occasion to curse, a turn or two of the wheel, the more natural way from right to left, and the curses shower out faster than a longshoreman.

## HOW TO TELL GOOD WHISKY.

The Chief Analyst of the Canadian Government Informs the People.

A 43-page pamphlet recently issued by the Inland Revenue department, under the title of "Bulletin No. 27," furnishes information concerning the quality of liquors of such an interesting and valuable character as to make it an excellent guide book for importers, retailers and consumers; and one that should be in the hands of all who desire to know the names of reliable distillers and dealers, and the way to tell high-class liquors from inferior grades. The information contained in the pamphlet is very full, and is presented in a manner that reflects credit on the Laboratory branch of the Inland Revenue department.

On page 41, referring to Scotch Whiskies, the Analyst says:—"These whiskies claim, I believe, to be produced by distillation of malted grain, or a mixture of malted and unmalted grain, in pot-stills. They are characterized when new by the very large amount of so-called 'emphyneumatic oils' which they contain. The new or raw spirit, being quite unfit for use, is aged in wooden vessels, and in the course of time, through the changes which take place, the oils are oxidized or otherwise converted into products which give the characteristic bouquet or flavor to these whiskies."

Page 33 says:—"Any volatile oils present in a liquor are carried over with the vapor of alcohol, and are therefore found in the alcoholic distillate. Such oils are, as a rule, insoluble in water and rarely insoluble in very dilute alcohol. In consequence of this when water is added to the distillate, so that its volume is double that of the liquor distilled, the oils are largely thrown out of solution, and the emulsion so produced becomes decidedly opalescent. In genuine Scotch Whisky such oils are necessarily present. Grain spirit (alcohol) is free from these oils and gives no opalescence on dilution with water. As rye whisky is generally made from such spirit we find no opalescence on diluting the distillate from this liquor. Six samples of artificial liquors were produced in the laboratory from patent still spirit and essences. None of the distillates from them gave any opalescence on diluting with water. It is not

unlikely where the opalescence is very slight the liquor is essentially an imitation article, to which a proportion of genuine liquor has been added. Since in every case in which a high degree of certainty exists as to the origin of a pot-still liquor a very decided opalescence has been found."

On page 34 of the report the government analyst, in reference to fufurrol reaction, quotes M. L. Lindet-Bull, de la Societe Chimique de Paris, tome V, p. 20, as follows:—"The presence of fufurrol in liquor is believed to be due to the charring of portions of the malt (or other material used) during process of distillation." Continuing the analyst says:—"In patent stills, where steam heat only is used, this charring of the contents of the still does not take place, and in the spirit produced fufurrol is not found. The ageing of the spirit which causes changes in the nature of most of the secondary constituents of spirits, does not apparently affect the fufurrol, which is present as largely in old as in new pot-still whiskies. (The analyst quotes the foregoing from the evidence of A. H. Allen before the select committee on spirits appointed by the British House of Commons 1891.)

The report furnishes on page 21 a list of the Scotch Whiskies analyzed, with the following results:—

| Opalescence on Diluting Distillate.  | Fufurrol Reaction. |
|--|--------------------|
| Mackie & Co. .... Distinct.  | Very distinct.     |
| J. B. Sheriff. .... Distinct.  | Distinct.          |
| Bullock, Lafe & Co. .... Slight.   | Distinct.          |
| Bernard & Co. .... Slight.   | Faint.             |
| Donald Stuart. .... Slight.  | Faint.             |
| Kirker, Greer & Co. .... Slight.   | Faint.             |
| "Heather Bell" Brand, manufactured in Montreal, Slight.                            | Faint.             |
| Michelle's Heather Dew, None.  | Faint.             |
| Thom & Cameron. .... Distinct.   | Very faint.        |
| Artificial Scotch prepared in the Laboratory from Spirits and essences. .... None. | None.              |

Several other brands, shipped by blenders and distillers, whose names do not appear, not having been given the inspectors, are not included in this list. These, however, appear in the report in connection with the vendors' names, and are all ranked as more or less inferior to the highest grade above mentioned.

So that, according to the official report of the laboratory branch of the Inland Revenue department, the highest recognized authority in the Dominion of Canada, MACKIE & Co.'s Scotch, stands conspicuously at the head of the whiskey list.—*Advt.*

## LADIES BEWARE!

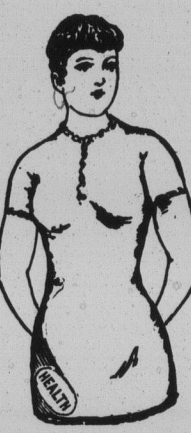
And see the word "Health" is plainly stamped on the vests you buy when asking for the

## "HEALTH BRAND"

There is such a large sale for these goods now, that they are being imitated, and your protection is this trade-mark.

For Spring and Summer wear some beautiful new styles and special light weights have been produced.

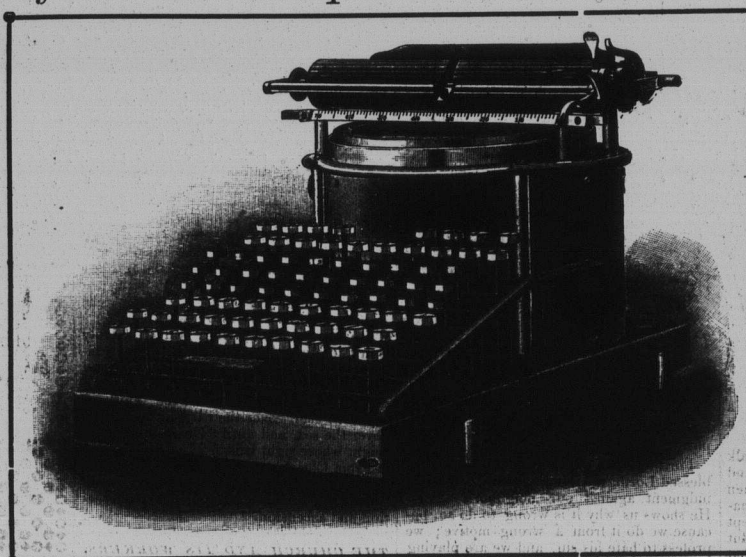
Every first-class store has them for sale.



## The Yost Typewriter.

The New Yost the only perfect Writing Machine. The ribbon, the shift-key and other antiquated devices discarded.

New Machine,  
" Management  
" Principles,  
" Patents,  
" Men,  
" Life,  
" Brains,  
" Methods,  
" Capital,  
The Latest & Best.



The New Yost combines the life long experience of the inventor G. W. N. Yost, who invented the "Remington" in 1873, the "Caligraph" in 1880 and the "Yost" in 1889, the latest and best improvements have been added during 1892, making the New Yost an ideal perfect typewriter. The New Yost prints direct from steel type, its work is never blurred but is clean, cut and beautiful. The alignment is absolutely perfect and permanent. The paper feed is an ideal success, the best ever applied to a typewriter. The line spacing absolutely perfect.

IRA CORNWALL, General Agent, Chubb's Corner, ST. JOHN, N. B.

## IT IS CERTAINLY A GREAT TRIBUTE TO MELISSA THAT SUCH PERSISTENT ATTEMPTS ARE MADE TO PRODUCE IMITATIONS.

Counterfeit money to pass current even among the most ignorant must be made to resemble genuine coin.

In like manner it is found necessary to even copy Melissa patterns and styles in the frantic effort to place imitation goods on the market.

## ALL IN VAIN.

The public are not so easily humbugged, and regard with undisguised contempt the most ignorant and paltry manner of doing business.

Our Melissa Cloths are manufactured by the largest and best mills in the country. All our patterns are made especially for us and the mills guarantee they will neither reproduce them in any other cloth, nor sell them to any other firm.

## WE NEITHER DEAL IN COUNTERFEITS NOR PLAY SECOND FIDDLE.

Copies of Melissa patterns must therefore be obtained from some of the smaller inferior mills in lower grades of cloth.

NOTHING EQUAL TO MELISSA HAS EVER HERETOFORE BEEN PRODUCED either for Ladies' Cloakings or Men's Ulsterings. There is a large range of the most fashionable colorings and patterns to choose from. The Cloth being thoroughly Rainproof you get, in a Melissa Cloak or Overcoat, a beautiful fine soft Woollen Garment having all the advantages of a Waterproof without any of the disagreeable or unhealthy qualities.

Melissa Goods are now being sold by all the Leading Dealers throughout the Dominion.

All genuine porous rainproof cloths are stamped in wax with the Melissa trade mark seal, and Melissa Garments have the above trade mark label attached. None other genuine.

THE MELISSA MANUFACTURING CO., MONTREAL.

## THE DOMINION SAFETY FUND Life Association.

ESTABLISHED 1891.

The only REGULAR LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY devoted to the business of Life Insurance AT COST.

Upwards of \$200,000 in Death Claims paid, at a cost of one-third the ordinary Life Premiums.

The Association issues STRAIGHT LIFE and SPECIFIC TONTINE POLICIES.

Under its Tontine Policies, SPECIFIC Cash Bonuses are payable, an instance of which is given below.

ST. JOHN, N. B., March 28th, 1892.

To the Directors of The Dominion Safety Fund Life Association:

GENTLEMEN,—We the undersigned, beg to acknowledge receipt of the sum of Fifty-five Dollars, cash, paid to each of us; being a FIRST Bonus under the terms of our Specific Tontine Policies, issued in May, 1891.

These policies continue in force for the full amount, with provision for further Bonuses.

We heartily recommend THE DOMINION SAFETY FUND LIFE ASSOCIATION to the Public for reliability and promptitude.

MARSTON GULLOD, W. G. LEE,  
FRED C. JONES, WALTER RANKINE,  
A. L. GOODWIN, J. B. ANDREWS,  
H. F. FINLEY, RICHARD RODGERS.

The Association has over \$250 of Assets for every \$100 of Liability and holds the same RESERVE that Level Premium Companies do. Full Dominion Deposit. A Dominion License. Official Inspection. For further information apply to our agents, or to

CHAS. CAMPBELL, Sec'y.

## What Must Go

Bad alignment,  
Illegible work,  
Foul ink ribbons,  
Bothersome  
Shift-keys,  
Double scales,  
Etc.,

Are no longer to be tolerated or pardoned, THE NEW YOST HAS ABOLISHED THEM and no other machine can retain them and live.

## "ASTRA" TAIL

[Correspondence seeks payment should be made to Progress, St. John.]

I must have had other day, girls, because all the correction since I first started many of them I had one, their names, small flock of friends, when I began whom I have never what has become of you now? There "Polly," and "Glad" of "Fancies," "A" "Three little maids" "Wanderer,"—I the "Wanderer," too, a literary career was a letter some nancy b her, and then I "Robin" whose absence silent for so long to the conclusion her voice again, and brighter land. I look low spirited if I look had better take up and get a few letters, not like to think the dents with whom I were, have quite for their interest in my PROGRESS.

EMMANUEL B. Y. real names. I would not give me an adventure I let her bag, and then upon me and read really made me feel important by address. "Admiral," there was one cant letter between had you used an might easily have Mr. John Jacob Astor "You are a clever boy yet methinks the ariseth early in the ne sell to her task betin too, and peradventure have my dearest sym and you shall also be counsel, such as is reached such years of the Rubicon of eight and youthful things I must be sufficiently rely upon it implicitly any regard for your opinion of your parent ter to you one way of they may possibly "if you say, in all even tresses as kidnappin altar, tearing you your weeping bride close confinement is rat haunted paternal nourishing diet and your twenty-first birth but you will be upheld that the course of true smooth, and also that fact that your parent "reliant consent" such unpleasant con any ban to forbid! ial license, which is then so much more young lady is five why not borrow years from her life you 21? I really this idea. Judging from scription the young le wonderful girl. It privilege of meeting "rich way and shibb brown hair" and a slight tinge of Africa any drawback; such matter of taste. I enoe in age matters. I decidedly this eight but no stronger, I fr the occasion warra slightest intention of so you may set you "rich way and shibb I certainly do thin love," would sound letter was fairly well but the composition upon. Well, I don't dularly wish you but you may, if you I terested in knowing peculiar love affair tu NEMO, N. B.—Yo so, and I think I much I appreciate I think I am alwa when a man tells me column, as I know clear of anything like ment." As you say always open to inquir feel highly flattered a "fancy" to me, and neither Geoffrey nor the fact in the leas good an opinion of hi and the pup is a celebrated his first bi collar, and has had hi which he emerged sen to say he hurt the much as the other is naturally inclin Of course I had patie ter, and I enjoyed it story is very clear, a only explanation I of young lady's conduct ally cared for you. I she did at the time b few girls of that age l and the very fact that responding with ano

The